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STAFF NOTES:

**Middle East
Africa
South Asia**

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140

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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA



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CONTENTS

Somalia: Drought Victims Opt for Nomadic Life	1
East Africa: Gradual Reshaping of Ties Likely	2

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Somalia

Drought Victims Opt for Nomadic Life

President Siad's campaign to put an end to nomadism in Somalia is apparently running into problems.

According to figures published on July 24 by the government's official organ, *October Star*, nearly 60 percent of the refugees who have left the government's drought relief camps have opted for a return to nomadism. There is a possibility, moreover, that the proportion wishing to return to their old lifestyle could increase. Most of the 40 percent who were allegedly transferred to agricultural resettlement communities in southern Somalia are still in temporary facilities near Mogadiscio. If the government runs into long delays in establishing the resettlement communities because of a lack of funds or materials, some of these people may also go back to their old way of life.

October Star indicated that nearly 269,000 Somalis sought relief from the Sahelian drought in the government's refugee camps. Almost 109,000 people are still there.

The deep-seated antipathy of many nomads to any form of centralized control appears to have been primarily responsible for wrecking Siad's "denomadization" program. Another factor is the nomads' belief that agricultural activity is degrading.

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25X1

July 28, 1975

1

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East Africa

Gradual Reshaping of Ties Likely

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania--the quarreling members of the East African Community (EAC)--have reached a compromise permitting funds to be transferred from within their national boundaries to the headquarters of various EAC corporations which provide common services--railways, harbors, posts and telecommunications, and civil aviation. The compromise, if it holds up, will allow the corporations to keep functioning and remove a chronic source of friction among the three countries.

Even if the corporations continue to operate, the three countries may begin the complex and probably prolonged process of replacing most of them with national-level organizations. Some observers believe that such a partial dissolution of the East African Community would facilitate the establishment of looser forms of economic cooperation, based on genuine mutual interest and having a better chance to survive.

Each of the three EAC members has its own reasons for dissatisfaction with the way the Community functions; each believes the organization serves the interests of the others better than its own. Ideological and personal differences among the leaders of the three countries--especially the intense antagonism between Tanzanian President Nyerere and Ugandan President Amin--have also undermined the Community. The three heads of state have not met since 1970, and the lack of top-level decisions has impeded the efforts of EAC managers to work out their problems.

In the last year or so, the three countries have reacted to their balance-of-payments problems by restricting the transfer of funds from EAC organizations within their boundaries to the corporation headquarters. For example, Kenya has held back money collected in Mombasa instead of remitting it to the headquarters of the harbors corporation in Dar es Salaam; Tanzanians have held

(Continued)

July 28, 1975

2

CONFIDENTIAL

back money from the railways corporation headquarters in Nairobi; both Kenya and Tanzania have slowed payments to the posts and telecommunications headquarters in Kampala. Short of funds, the corporations have curtailed services, made do with worn-out equipment, and left workers unpaid.

The mid-July agreement on the transfer of funds, arrived at by the three finance ministries and EAC executives, provides for the simultaneous release of all payments due to the various corporations.

Strong sentiment still exists in all three countries to break up the corporations, although no country wants to appear responsible for the demise of the Community. Moreover, the corporations are heavily in debt to the World Bank and other lenders; the three countries would have to agree on how to split up the joint debt. Even so, the World Bank representative in Nairobi and other well-placed observers predict that the three Community corporations will have been supplanted by national organizations within two years.

The breakup of the corporations would eliminate a constant source of friction among the three countries and might permit them to agree on a more workable, less formal structure for cooperation. The three countries may continue the joint airlines corporation in a modified form and some reciprocal trade preferences, along with some of the Community's research and scientific services.

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25X1

July 28, 1975

3

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